



To Malachi 3:1b
 "...Behold, He is coming,"
 Says the Lord of hosts.

Two weeks ago, when we lit the first Advent candle, our Leadership leaf was VISION, to remind us of the VISION of Hope from the prophet Jeremiah. Last week, our story was about two prophets in the Bible - Amos and Micah. These prophets reminded God's people to work for JUSTICE and Peace and to be ready for the birth of a Messiah in Bethlehem. Today, our Leaf is PREPARATION.

Amos 4:12 says:
 "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel,
 and because I will do this to you, Israel,
 prepare to meet your God."

Another prophet named Malachi says "Behold, He is coming"

We PREPARE for the coming of Jesus during Advent. And we show our PREPARATION in church in lots of ways. The little book that we used for the story walk outside church is called "Advent is for Waiting". Here are some of the ways we prepare for Christmas while we wait.

- Obviously, we change the altar color to blue. We decorate the church with greens. The greens remind us of life and renewal. Jesus will bring new life to the whole world.
- When we make the greens into a circle, we have a wreath. The circle reminds us of eternity, of God's never-ending love.
- When we add Advent candles to our circle, we have an Advent Wreath. We light the candles each week.
- We say special prayers when we light each candle. We ask God to prepare our hearts for Christmas. We pray for Hope and Faith and Peace and Joy and Love.
- We sing special hymns for the Advent Season. Every week when we light the candles we sing a new verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".
- We have a Giving Tree in the narthex and a decorated Tree in the Gazebo.
- We have a manger scene on the piano waiting for the baby Jesus. The angels helped Mary and Joseph prepare for Jesus to join their family.

PREPARATION is about getting ready for things we believe will happen. We prepare in Advent because we believe Jesus will come again into each of our hearts and lives at Christmas.

Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus

